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COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TAGS: PLOS, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON LOS ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. AS THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR THEIR PRELIMINARY MEETING IN WARSAW BEFORE THE UN LOS CONFERENCE RECONVENES IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH, PRAVDA CARRIES A MAJOR COMMENTARY WHICH SETS OUT MOSCOW'S LINE ON SEVERAL KEY LOS ISSUES. PRAVDA CALLS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES IN THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE AND CHARGES PEKING WITH SEEKING TO STIR UP TROUBLESOME LOS QUESTIONS. THE ARTICLE SPELLS OUT MOSCOW'S SUPPORT FOR: (1) A TWELVE-MILE LIMIT FOR TERRITORIAL SEAS AND ITS FIRM OPPOSITION TO A 200-MILE LIMIT; (2) A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE INCLUDING "SOVEREIGN RIGHTS" FOR COASTAL STATES OVER LIVING AND MINERAL RESOURCES; (3) THE RESOLUTION OF FISHERIES QUESTIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COASTAL AND FISHING STATES, WITH COMPENSATION FOR THE FORMER; (4) FREE PASSAGE THROUGH AND OVER STRAITS FOR ALL SHIPS AND PLANES; (5) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON POLLUTION STANDARDS; (6) PREVENTION OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BY "IMPERIALIST MONOPOLIES." END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (FEB 12) CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY S. PAVLOV CALLED "DETENTE AND THE WORLD'S OCEANS," WHICH SPEAKS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING REMAINING DIFFERENCES OVER LOS SO THAT THE SEAS CAN BE USED FOR PEACEFUL AND COOPERATIVE PURPOSES. THE LIMIT OF TERRITORIAL WATER IS THE FIRST AND MOST STRONGLY ARGUED POINT, WITH PAVLOV ASSERTING THAT "THE MAJORITY" OF LOS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT A 12-MILE LIMIT. INDIA IS CITED AS THE GOOD EXAMPLE HERE, WHILE CHINA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY NAMED AMONG THOSE "EXTREMISTS" WHO SUPPORT A 200-MILE LIMIT. BUT MOSCOW, SAYS PAVLOV, IS MINDFUL OF THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THEREFORE SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN WHICH COASTAL STATES WOULD ENJOY "SOVEREIGN RIGHTS" OVER LIVING AND MINERAL RESOURCES. THE PROBLEM OF FISHING IN THE ZONE SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COASTAL AND FISHING STATES, SAYS PAVLOV, SO A COASTAL STATE WHICH PERMITS OTHERS TO FISH IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS ZONE SHOULD RECEIVE "COMPENSATION." LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES AND OTHERS "GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED" SHOULD ALSO BE ALLOWED TO USE THE RESOURCES OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE.

3. ANOTHER PROBLEM OF "CARDINAL IMPORTANCE," SAYS PAVLOV, IS INTERNATIONAL STRAITS, AND SPECIFICALLY FREE PASSAGE THROUGH THEM. THE RIGHT OF "ALL SHIPS"

TO TRANSIT STRAITS IS A FACTOR AFFECTING THE SECURITY OF MANY COUNTRIES, SAYS PAVLOV, AND THE SOVIET UNION MUST SOMETIMES "PROVIDE AID TO YOUNG STATES WHICH ARE THE OBJECT OF AGGRESSIVE THREATS FROM IMPERIALIST FORCES." THE SOVIET UNION, PAVLOV REITERATES, FAVORS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM "BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE PASSAGE OF ALL SHIPS THROUGH STRAITS AND FLIGHTS BY AIRPLANES OVER THEM, SUBJECT ONLY TO SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR THE COUNTRIES BORDERING THE STRAITS. (NOTE: THE TERM "INNOCENT PASSAGE" IS NOT USED IN THIS ARTICLE, AND THERE IS NO OTHER DISTINCTION IMPLIED BETWEEN MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY SHIPS.)

4. ON MARINE POLLUTION, PAVLOV ARGUES THAT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SHOULD BE SET COOPERATIVELY. IF COUNTRIES IMPOSE THEIR OWN RULES, THERE WILL BE NO WAY TO AVOID DIFFERENT STANDARDS, WHICH WOULD "COMPLICATE" SHIPPING AND LEAD TO FRICTIONS. PAVLOV SAYS THAT STATES WHICH APPLY STRICTER STANDARDS THAN THOSE AGREED INTERNATIONALLY COULD ALSO FIND THAT THIS REBOUNDS AGAINST THEMSELVES.

5. IN BRIEF REFERENCES TO OTHER ISSUES, PAVLOV SAYS THAT A "REGIME" ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHOULD BE SET UP IN THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND THAT REGULATING THE EXPLOITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCES SHOULD "PREVENT THE STRENGTHENING. . . OF IMPERIALIST MONOPOLIES."

6. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT THERE ARE "SERIOUS DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN STATES ON LOS ISSUES, BUT THAT THEIR LONG-TERM INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY SEEKING MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE ON MATTERS LIKE TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS. THE MAOISTS, SAYS PAVLOV, ARE PLAYING ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSTRUCTIONIST ROLE BY ENCOURAGING DISPUTES ON LOS QUESTIONS. THEY SEEK TO MAKE THE OCEANS "AN ARENA OF CONFLICT" TO DEFLECT ATTENTION AWAY FROM DETAILS OF THE NATIONAL USE OF THE SEAS. BUT THE EFFORT WILL NOT SUCCEED, SAYS PAVLOV; THE WORLD'S OCEANS SHOULD BE AN ARENA FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES AND PEOPLES.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE A FEW RHETORICAL LAPSES, INCLUDING THE SHOTS AT THE CONVENIENT "MAOIST" TARGET, THE ARTICLE IS A SERIOUS PRESENTATION OF SOVIET POSITIONS ON SEVERAL KEY LOS ISSUES. PAVLOV IS MOST INSISTENT IN ARGUING AGAINST THE 200-MILE LIMIT, BUT HE BALANCES THIS LINE BY STRONGLY ENDORSING COASTAL STATE RIGHTS IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE. THE POINT ON FREE PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS IS ALSO STATED STRONGLY, ALTHOUGH IT IS MUDDIED BY THE

REASON PAVLOV GIVES OF SOVIET NEEDS (DOES HE MEAN AID
TO ANGOLA, VIETNAM, CUBA, OR WHAT?). THE ARTICLE IS
A STAGE-SETTER FOR THE WARSAW MEETING OF EE LOS REPRE-
SENTATIVES NEXT WEEK, AND FOR THE NEW YORK SESSION OF
THE LOS CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH.
STOESSEL

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